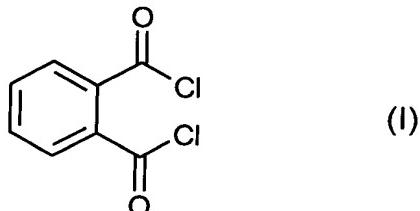


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

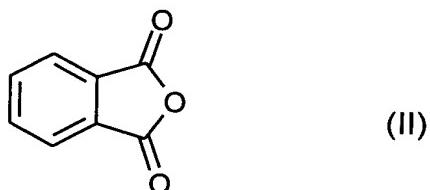
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

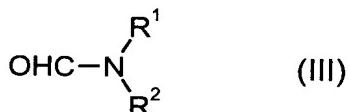
-- Claim 6 (new): A process for preparing phthaloyl chloride of formula (I)



comprising reacting phthalic anhydride of formula (II)



with phosgene in the presence of an N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III)



in which R¹ and R² are each independently straight-chain or branched alkyl, in the presence of an inert diluent at temperatures between 20°C and 150°C, wherein the phosgene and the N,N-dialkylformamide of the formula (III) are independently metered in continuously or semicontinuously.

Claim 7 (new): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III) is metered in continuously.

Claim 8 (new): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the N,N-dialkylformamide of formula (III) is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 9 (new): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 10 (new): The process according to Claim 7 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 11 (new): The process according to Claim 8 wherein the phosgene is metered in continuously.

Claim 12 (new): The process according to Claim 6 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 13 (new): The process according to Claim 7 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously.

Claim 14 (new): The process according to Claim 8 wherein the phosgene is metered in semicontinuously. --